

Message Text

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TAGS: CSCE, CGEN, SREF, SHUM, GW, PL
SUBJ: GERMAN ETHNIC EMIGRATION FROM POLAND - A CURRENT SNAPSHOT

REF: BONN 4037

1. ON MARCH 15, DURING A GENERAL REVIEW OF CONSULAR PROBLEMS, THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR COUNSELOR ASKED WOLFDIETRICH VOGEL, THE FRG EMBASSY'S CONSULAR COUNSELOR, TO REVIEW THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE FRG'S DIVIDED FAMILIES AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT CASES IN POLAND. HIS COMMENT ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

2. POLISH PERFORMANCE IN 1977: VOGEL CONFIRMED THE FIGURES GIVEN IN PARA 3 OF BONN'S 4037 AND SAID HIS EMBASSY IS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE POLES HAD NOT REACHED THE 30,000 ANNUAL BENCHMARK TOTAL CALLED FOR IN THE FRG-POLISH EMIGRATION AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE GERMANS DO NOT CONSIDER THE 2000 SHORTFALL TO REPRESENT A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THEY ARE, OR COURSE, WATCHING CAREFULLY THE POLISH PERFORMANCE IN 1978.

3. REPRESENTATION TACTICS: VOGEL SAID THE FRG EMBASSY IN WARSAW FOCUSSES ITS REPRESENTATION EFFORTS ON PERSUADING THE POLES TO FULFILL THE COMMITMENTS THEY UNDERTOOK IN THE EMIGRATION AGREEMENT. THEY ARE NOT YET INVOKING THE MORAL COMMITMENTS OF

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THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT FOR FEAR THAT THIS WOULD CONFUSE THE SITUATION AND IRRITATE THE GOP. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SIMPLE REPRESENTATIONS YIELD THE BEST RESULTS WITH THE POLES. HOWEVER, IF POLISH PERFORMANCE UNDER THE EMIGRATION AGREEMENT BECOMES SERIOUSLY DEFICIENT, THE HELSINKI COMMITMENTS WILL PROBABLY BE INVOKED.

4. THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO POLAND: JUST AFTER THE VISIT OF HELMUT SCHMIDT TO WARSAW IN LATE NOVEMBER 1977, THE FRG EMBASSY HANDED THE POLES A LIST OF ABOUT 2000 HARDSHIP CASES. TO DATE, ABOUT 300 OF THESE HAVE BEEN GIVEN PASSPORTS.

5. HOW MANY CASES?: VOGEL SAID THE FRG DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY ETHNIC GERMANS ELIGIBLE FOR REPATRIATION TO THE FRG WERE NOT IN POLAND. THE STATISTICAL METHODS USED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LAENDER AUTHORITIES DO NOT PERMIT EASY RETRIEVAL OF THE NAMES OF PEOPLE ARRIVING IN THE FRG. ORIGINALLY, OVER 300,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES ALL OVER GERMANY AS ELIGIBLE FOR REPATRIATION TO THE FRG AS GERMAN CITIZENS. THE FRG EMBASSY HERE HAS COPIES OF ALL THOSE REGISTRATIONS, WHICH DATE BACK TO THE LATE 1940'S. HOWEVER, FEEDBACK ON PEOPLE ARRIVING IN THE FRG FROM POLAND IS INADEQUATE. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE IT HAS PROCESSED FOR VISAS, IT DOES NOT KNOW HOW MANY HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR APPLICATIONS TO LEAVE, HOW MANY HAVE DIED, OR HOW MANY ARRIVED IN GERMANY BEFORE THE STRICT TRAVEL CONTROLS IN THE 1960S WENT INTO EFFECT. VOGEL SAID ALL HIS EMBASSY KNEW FOR SURE IS THAT MANY LESS THAN 300,000 ELIGIBLE ETHNIC GERMANS REMAIN IN POLAND.
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